

June 19, 2014

Elizabeth Appel
Director
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 4141-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007, RIN 1076-AF18
Request for Extension of Comment Period**

Dear Ms. Appel:

The Towns of Kent, Salisbury, Cornwall, Winsted, Sharon, Norfolk, Litchfield, Harwinton, Barkhamsted, Roxbury, Torrington, Washington, New Hartford, Morris, Colebrook and Canaan, Connecticut (the "Towns") hereby request an extension of the comment period on the proposed rule revising the tribal acknowledgment regulations published on May 29, 2014. *See* Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes, 79 Fed. Reg. 30766 (May 29, 2014) (to be codified at 25 C.F.R. pt. 83). The proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for our Towns and the State of Connecticut. Despite the clear effect of the proposal on previously denied and potential future tribal acknowledgment decisions in Connecticut, no meeting has been scheduled in our State and a short comment period of only 60 days has been offered. BIA can obtain a full record and be properly advised on the proposal only if it provides sufficient time to review this highly detailed proposal. In addition, the public meetings that have been scheduled in other states are mostly in venues associated with Indian Tribes. Comments from non-tribal interests in a neutral environment are essential.

The current rules have been in effect for over 30 years, and we are aware of no reason to rush through a sweeping revision process as has been proposed in the proposed rule. Please provide a **90-day extension** to the current comment period so interested parties have sufficient time to review the proposal and submit responsive comments. Please also schedule a public meeting within the State of Connecticut at a venue not associated with an Indian Tribe. Thank you for considering this request.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Bruce Adams

Bruce Adams
First Selectman
Kent

/s/ Gordon M. Ridgeway

Gordon M. Ridgeway
First Selectman
Cornwall

/s/ Elinor Carbone

John Rodolico
Mayor
Torrington

/s/ Curtis Rand

Curtis Rand
First Selectman
Salisbury

/s/ Brent Colley

Brent Colley
First Selectman
Sharon

/s/ Barbara Henry

Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Roxbury

/s/ Susan Dyer

Susan Dyer
First Selectman
Norfolk

/s/ Dale Martin

Dale Martin
Town Manager
Winsted

/s/ Leo Paul

Leo Paul
First Selectman
Litchfield

/s/ Michael Criss

Michael Criss
First Selectman
Harwinton

/s/ Don Stein

Don Stein
First Selectman
Barkhamsted

/s/ Mark Lyon

Mark Lyon
First Selectman
Washington

/s/ Dan Jerram

Dan Jerram
First Selectman
New Hartford

/s/ Barbara Bongiolatti

Barbara Bongiolatti
First Selectman
Morris

/s/ Thomas McKeon

Thomas McKeon
First Selectman
Colebrook

/s/ Patricia Mechare

Patricia Mechare
First Selectman
Canaan

cc: Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Murphy
Representative John Larson
Representative Joe Courtney
Representative Rosa DeLauro
Representative James Himes
Representative Elizabeth Esty
Governor Dan Malloy

Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Lee Fleming, Office of Federal Acknowledgment